



ATTACHMENT A

Remarks

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include allowable subject of claim 8, allowable dependent claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form, and method claim 14 has been amended to include allowable subject matters from claims 8 and 13. Other dependent claims have also been amended consistent with the changes to the independent claims from which they dependent and/or for clarity. It is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

In the *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and § 103* sections of the outstanding Detailed Action, independent claims 1 and 14, and dependent claims 2-7 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 or § 103 as being anticipated by or obvious over the Lavorata patent. Subsequently, in the *Allowable Subject Matter* section, it was indicated that dependent claims 8-13 contained allowable subject matter and hence would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. This indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated.

By this Amendment, the allowable subject matter of dependent system claim 8 has been added to independent system claim 1 to make claim 1 allowable. This also makes system claims 2-7 and 9-12 allowable based on their dependencies from allowable claim 1.

Also by this Amendment, allowable dependent system claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form, so that independent claim 13 is also now allowable. Dependent system claim 8, previously dependent on claim 1 (and whose subject matter was incorporated into claim 1 as noted above), now depends from independent system claim 13, so claim 8 is also allowable with allowable independent claim 13.

Finally, by this Amendment, independent method claim 14 has been amended to include similar subject matters of allowable system claims 8 and 13. It will also be noted that support for the “undisturbed” language added to claim 14 is found in the last line of page 6. Therefore, it is submitted that amended independent method claim 14 is allowable for the same reasons as claims 8 and 13.

Priority Date. It is also noted that the filing date of the priority document is 11 June 2003 (or 05-11-2003 in the US format, or 11-06-2003 in the European format; see the front page of the PCT published application, for example, or the filed priority document itself). This priority date was initially incorrectly listed in PAIR as November 6, 2003 (or 11-06-2003 in US format); and was subsequently incorrectly changed to May 12, 2003 (or 05-12-2003 in US format), which is the present PAIR listing. Therefore, the examiner’s assistance is requested in correcting the PAIR priority date listing to the correct date of June 11, 2003 (or 06-11-2003 in US format).

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.